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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar and Sudan: draft resolution

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/172 of 23 December 1994,

Aware that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has developed revised Guidelines on Refugee Children, issued in May 1994,

Noting also the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and the 1951 Convention 2/ and the 1967 Protocol 3/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 4/

2. Expresses its deep concern at the plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. Urges the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

5. Condemns all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their recruitment in military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

1/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

3/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

4/ A/50/555.